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## REVIEWS.

*Studies in Diplomacy.* From the French of COUNT BENEDETTI. Pp. 1xix, 323. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

*An Ambassador of the Vanquished, Viscount Élie de Gontaut-Biron's Mission to Berlin, 1871-1877.* By the DUKE DE BROGLIE. Translated, with notes by ALBERT D. VANDAM. Pp. 282. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

In the first of these volumes Count Benedetti takes up again the difficult task—began in his "*Mission en Prusse in 1871*"—of justifying himself in the eyes of the French people and throwing the blame for the precipitate war of 1870, which many have attached to him, on to the shoulders of Duke de Gramont, Bismarck and William I. Feeling that he has been ill used by those at whose hands he expected at least consideration, his cry is for justice. Much of the book, therefore, is given up to the details of the attempt to place Prince Leopold on the Spanish throne, after Isabella had been forced to abandon it, and of Benedetti's mission to Ems to get William I. to disavow such a proceeding officially. While the spirit of his race is seen on almost every page of his book and no attempt is made to disguise his hatred for Bismarck, his words must be accorded a respectful consideration by the historian. For Benedetti played a leading part in the prologue to the war of 1870, and his views are those of one intimately acquainted with the preliminary stage-setting. His aim is to show that Prussia, and consequently Bismarck, was responsible for that war, that William bore a part of the responsibility, and that events were hastened by the ill-judged attitude and demands of the Duke de Gramont.

He informs us that he knew Bismarck was doing all he could to bring about the war; that he foreshadowed this in his dispatches so far back as 1866, and that he was aware Bismarck was only playing a game of delay in order that a favorable opportunity might be created. And from his statements the inference is natural, that he (Benedetti) fully understood that Bismarck was only using France as a tool to aid in accomplishing his own desire—the unification of Germany.

When the attempt to place Leopold on the Spanish throne became known to de Gramont, Benedetti was immediately ordered to repair to Ems and insist upon King William's directing that Leopold not only reconsider his acceptance but decline the crown. The orders to Benedetti were couched in anything but diplomatic language, and he takes ample occasion to show how he modified their tone when presenting them to William, and at the same time shows his contempt for the immoderate zeal of de Gramont. The day after his arrival at

Ems he obtained an interview with the King, in which he expressed the hope that he would advise Leopold to renounce his intention of accepting the offer made to him. The King's courteous reply was that, having had no hand in the negotiations, he had so far only indicated to Prince Anthony, Leopold's father, that if Leopold accepted he would approve, or if he now felt inclined to reconsider his action and withdraw he would still approve, his only desire being the furtherance of the best interests of international peace and harmony. In subsequent interviews the attitude maintained was always the same, and always with a kingly courtesy and dignity. But when the negotiations between Spain and Prince Anthony had reached such a point, that William deemed it wise to take a further step, he yielded to the persistence of Benedetti so far as to say that he expected a communication from Prince Leopold and that upon its arrival would give a definite answer. This, too, with the air of one having no part in the events, and unaware of what was going on until informed, while all the time not only controlling the negotiations but fixing the time for the public announcement of the results.

Thus put off, de Gramont grows impatient and demands that the King announce his disapproval of Leopold's course; but fearing this is going too far he immediately sends another dispatch to Benedetti requesting that above all the announcement of Leopold's withdrawal be given the stamp of official Prussian sanction by coming first from the King. William promises again to convey such intelligence as is at his command, and on the thirteenth of July authorizes Benedetti to say to his government that Leopold had resigned and that he approved of the act, but this communication came not in audience with the King, as he had promised, but was transmitted through one of his aides-de-camp. Meantime William had carefully arranged matters so that the first announcement should be made in Paris through the Spanish ambassador there, and this was done on the twelfth of July. The excitement was great, and de Gramont finding that he had been outwitted, tried to retrieve the day by demanding through Benedetti that William guarantee that Leopold would not again become a candidate, and through the Prussian ambassador, Werther, that he (William) make a statement that the affair was at an end and that all misunderstandings between the two governments should now cease. To these William replied firmly that the incident must be considered closed. Then came Bismarck's Ems dispatch and the declaration of war.

One rises from a perusal of these pages with the impression that whatever may have been the abilities displayed by de Gramont and Benedetti, they were as puppets in the hands of Bismarck and

William. The latter, indeed, in the conduct of the Leopold episode, betrays a subtle diplomacy that we are more inclined to associate with the Latin than with the Teutonic mind. He not only toyed with Benedetti and de Gramont, but arranged with Princes Anthony and Leopold that the announcement of his resignation should first be made public as the latter's individual act, with which he had no official concern; and that done, he of course had no hesitation in subsequently stamping it with his approval. If the figure of Bismarck is stamped in bold relief on the pages of Count Benedetti's book, his prominence is almost as great in the volume of the Duke de Broglie. M. de Gontaut was called upon by his defeated and humiliated country to represent it at the victorious court of the newly created Emperor. And that he was able to do this with some grace and no little tact, though without previous diplomatic training, speaks well for his abilities. Still, these pages have to do rather with the small talk of diplomacy, for they enlighten us little upon the great events happening in Europe. They serve also to show what an attitude of studied contempt for France Bismarck adopted in his relations with M. de Gontaut. Astounded at her rapid recovery from the disasters of the war, Bismarck for a moment looked with jealous eye on the military preparations that France was making, and made them the pretext for causing M. de Gontaut all sorts of evil quarters of an hour. He assumed the position of big bully, and by refusing to have intercourse with M. de Gontaut, except through an intermediary, who was entrusted with no powers to conclude any negotiations, he showed that, having France once under his heel, he meant to keep her there.

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*Philadelphia.*

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*The Puritan in England and New England.* By EZRA HOYT BYINGTON, D.D. With an Introduction by Alexander McKenzie, D.D. Pp. xl, 406. Price, \$2.00. Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1896.

Mr. Byington has, on divers occasions, been asked to read papers before "a number of historical societies, and before students, in colleges and seminaries." These essays, "rewritten and reconstructed, so as to bring them into connection with each other," are now presented to the public as a treatise on certain aspects of Puritanism. The result is a readable book—in large type, with a picture or so, to which a reader may devote a few hours with the comfortable feeling that the history is orthodox, according to Green, Macaulay and Palfrey, and the point of view satisfactory to good Americans.